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SPAWN COMICS

DIGITAL
EDITION





PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Jim Downing's long search into the mysteries of his past life came to an end, culminating in a showdown with longtime puppet master, Jason Wynn.

Content to let the past remain the past, Jim is determined to set a new course for his life. Though secrets still haunt him, there is hope in the darkness, as Jim seeks to control the power of the K7-Leetha and write his own destiny as the world's newest Hellspawn.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the *Spawn* mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Marc Rosen – A would-be reporter-turned-media manager and confidant of Jim Downing, Marc views Jim as his ticket to a better life – though the price for that success may be far greater than Marc knows.



Sara Johnston – When Jim woke from his coma (issue #185), Sara was the first person to greet him on the other side of the darkness. A woman of strong faith, Sara's connection to Jim will test her in ways she could never imagine.



Clown – A demon with close ties to the legacy of the Hellspawn, Clown's goal of controlling Jim Downing has been jeopardized by recent events. But, ever the survivor, Clown seeks new avenues through which to manipulate his prize – Downing will not slip through his grasp so easily.



Susan Matthews – Susan is Marc Rosen's girlfriend and a woman with strong abandonment issues. Feeling neglected by Marc, Susan seduced Jim, only to be rejected, as Jim felt uncomfortable with the situation. Longing for attention, Susan has consistently had her advances ignored, as Marc's devotion has been focused on his new career.



Detective Sam Burke – Sam, and his partner Twitch, have long been embroiled in the deeper mysteries connected to the Hellspawn – first with Jim's predecessor, Al Simmons, and now with Jim. Most recently, Sam was hospitalized after a run-in with Clown that had him at death's door.

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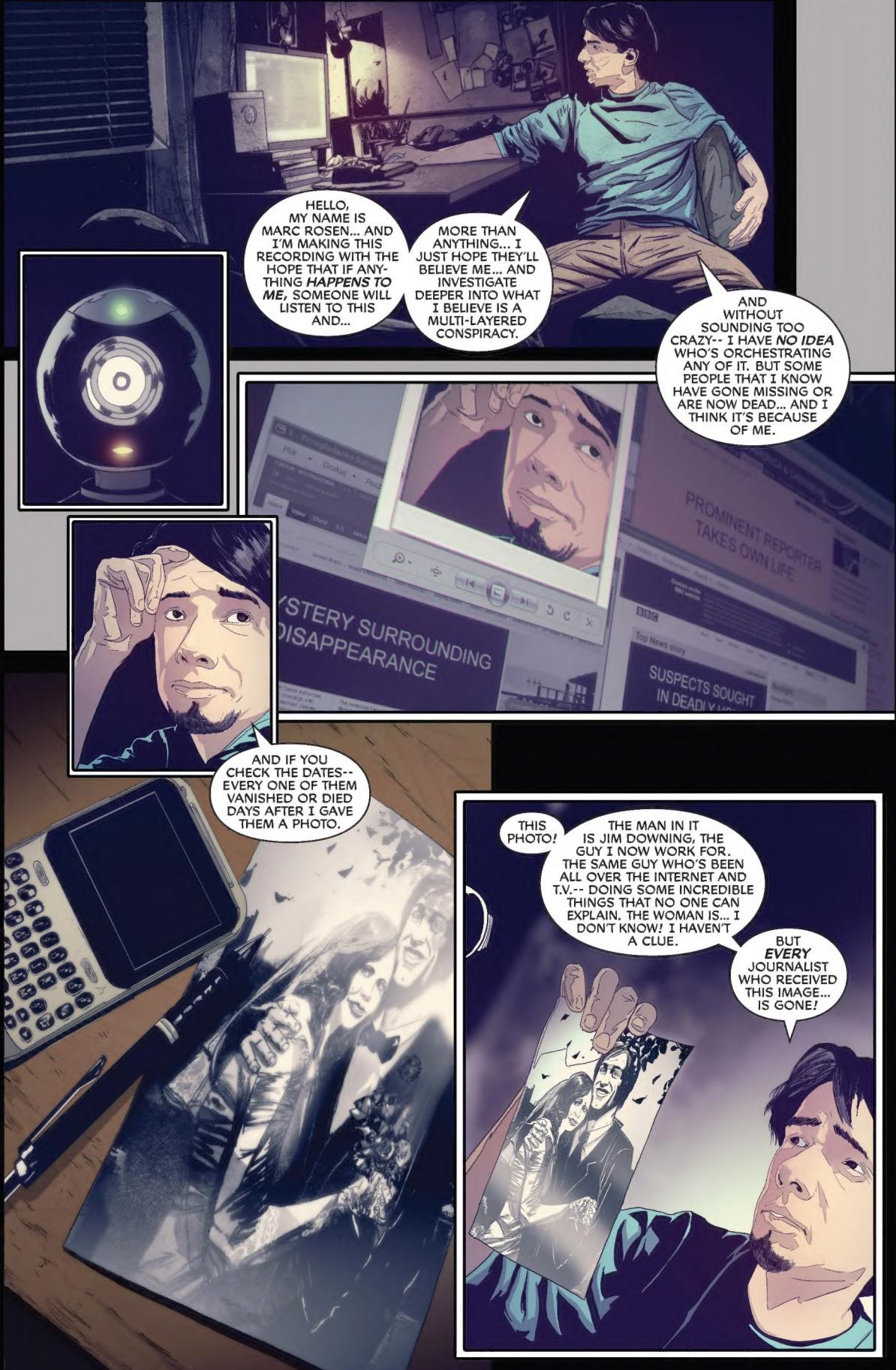
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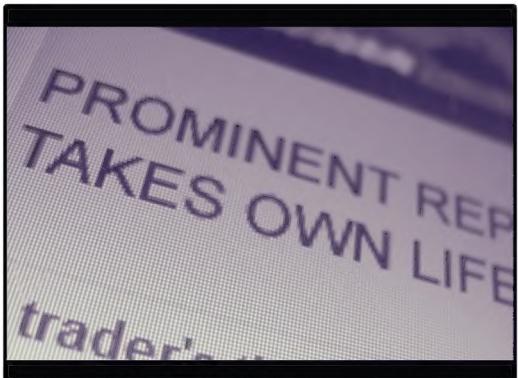
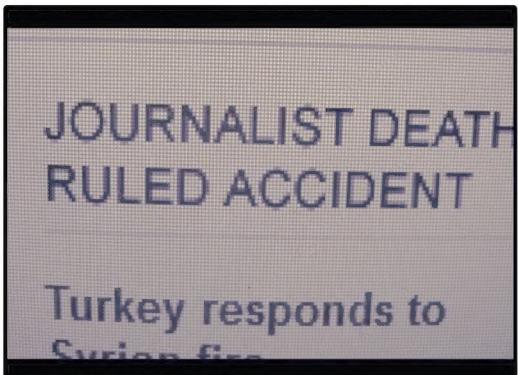
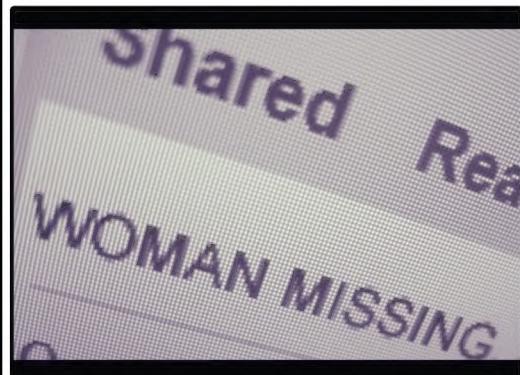
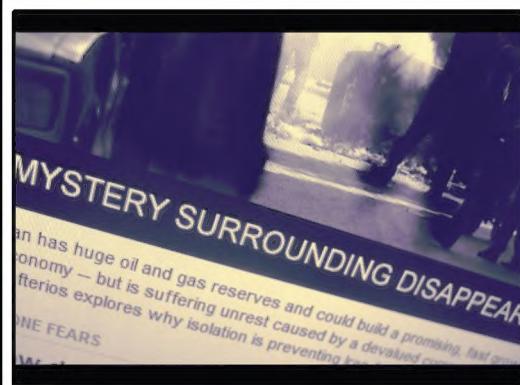
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MARC ROSEN







I'LL INCLUDE SCREEN GRABS OF ALL THE REPORTERS' CASES AND INCLUDE AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THEM AS I CAN. BUT THE PEOPLE THAT DON'T WANT THIS PHOTO SEEN ARE CAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING.

THAT'S WHAT'S SCARING ME SHITLESS. BECAUSE I DON'T WHO THEY ARE OR WHY THEY HAVEN'T COME AFTER ME YET. BUT SOME GOVERNMENT GUY SAID THAT...

BZZZT



ONE OTHER THING... I DON'T KNOW HOW JIM FITS INTO ANY OF THIS-- AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH-- I'M TOO AFRAID TO ASK HIM.



CLOWN



12
WHY? I'VE NEVER
HAD A PROBLEM WITH HIM.
WE ALWAYS KNEW WHERE EACH
OTHER STOOD. THOUGH I GOT
THE FEELING COG WASN'T
TOO FOND OF YOU.

ARE YOU DEAF?!
I SAID HE'S BACK! THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY HE COULD DO THAT--
HE HAD TO ABDICATE HIS THRONE!
NOW ASK YOURSELF... WHY WOULD HE
DO THAT UNLESS HIS POWERS HAVE
GROWN?! AND SINCE HE WAS A SPAWN
HIMSELF ONCE-- WHO DO YOU THINK
HAS THE INSIDE TRACK TO
CONVERT OUR SPAWN?!

LIKE I SAID.
HE'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
AND DOWNING, IN CASE
YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED,
DON'T BELONG TO
ANYONE YET.

SO
WE'RE ALL
COMPETITORS
NOW?

YES.

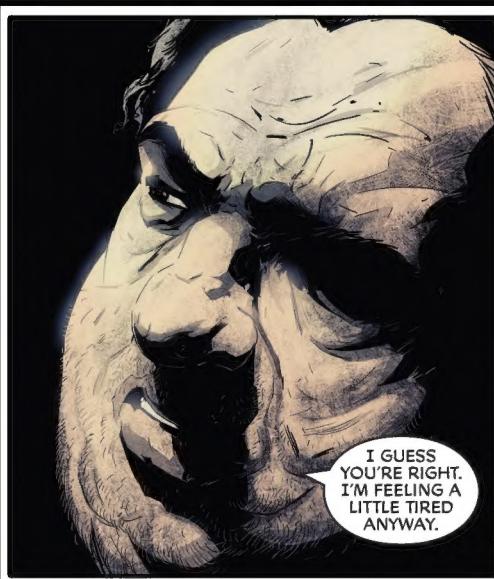
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I NEED TO BE
MORE LIKE YOU SO
I CAN HONE MY
POWERS AND
INFLUENCE.

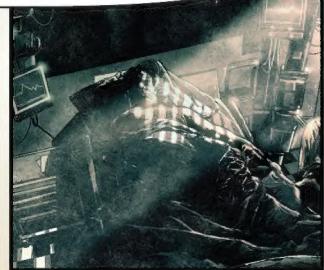
THAT YOU
THOUGHT OTHER-
WISE SHOWS HOW
UNDISCIPLINED
YOU STILL ARE.

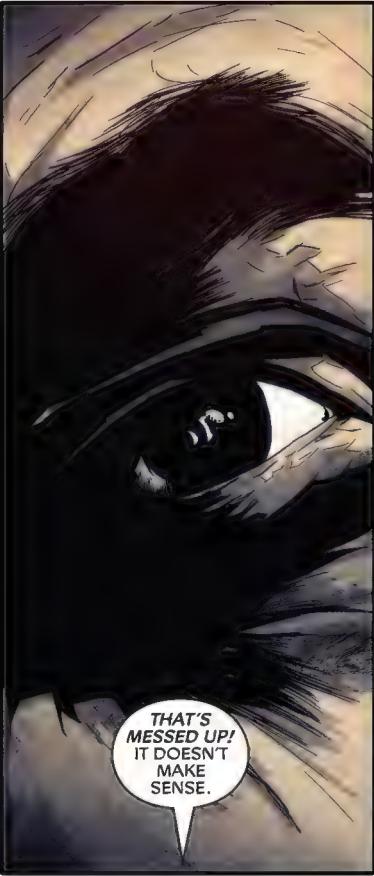
THAT
TRAIT WILL
FAIL YOU
EVENTUALLY.

THEN MAYBE...
JUST MAYBE I CAN
MAKE F*CKIN' KEY
CHAINS SOME
DAY TOO!

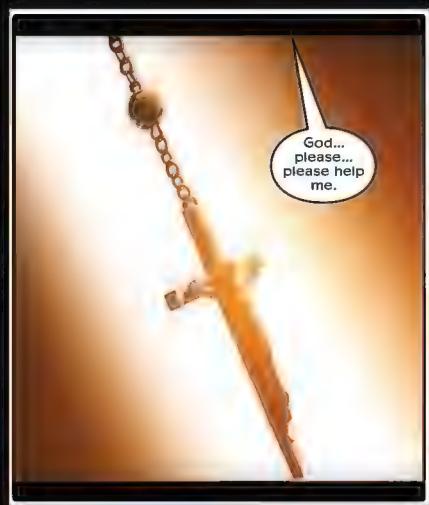
DETECTIVE SAM BURKE













I knew what I was supposed to do-- what to feel when he was in his coma. His spirit and yours were so very strong.

And I needed that. I needed both of you in my life...

"Because everyone close to me had abandoned me-- and when you sent him to me --it was a gift I wasn't worthy of receiving.



Why?

Why did you make him wake up?



And why
did you let
him take me
into the
dark?



"Until then I loved him... with
every fiber in my body. But he
took me into the darkness... and
God help me... I haven't
stopped being scared since.

"I couldn't see
or hear anything...
But I felt it!"



It was all
around me.
Everywhere!

And now
I don't know who
to trust any-
more or why I'm
even feeling like
this.



I keep fighting it-- but I don't know what side I'm going to fall to. Like Jim... light and darkness are trying to steal my soul.

And I don't know if I can live with *both* inside me at the same time.



I'm not Jim. His actions show that he has so much love-- so much light. But he lives with darkness too. I can't do that. I'm not as strong as him.



Please, Lord... give me strength.

















EMPIRE